



PREAMBLE/GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.
—Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.
—Preamble to the Constitution

Democrats will fight to repair the soul of this nation. To unite and to heal our country. To turn this crisis into a crucible, from which we will forge a stronger, brighter, and more equitable future.

We must right the wrongs in our democracy, redress the systemic injustices that have long plagued our society, throw open the doors of opportunity for all Americans, and reinvent our institutions at home and our leadership abroad. We do not simply aspire to return our country to where we were four years ago. We know we must be bolder and more ambitious.
—Democratic Party Platform 2020

The Sheridan County Democratic Party seeks to ensure that all people enjoy the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness guaranteed by our U.S. Constitution. We are dedicated to ensuring that every person—regardless of race, ethnicity, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and political affiliation—has a voice in how we are governed. We work for equality, domestic tranquility, the common defense, the general welfare, and liberty.

Our democracy is facing a perilous moment in our country's history. As divisiveness increases, communication and cooperation to collectively solve major problems decreases. Sheridan Democrats embrace civil discourse. We are passionate about the pursuit of dialogue and solutions. We pledge to do whatever it takes to build bridges across the growing divide, to listen and try to understand all sides. The most pressing priority we see today is to safeguard democracy and to remain United We Stand.

We envision a Wyoming in which all people are treated with respect and dignity. A state in which every person has access to justice, housing, healthcare, an adequate wage, quality public education, arts and culture, public lands, a healthy environment, and fair and free elections.

As Democrats—and more importantly, as citizens of this state, nation, and world—we pledge to work together to make this vision a reality now and in years to come.



SECTION 1: EQUALITY, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND JUSTICE

Sheridan County Democrats embrace the charge of our state and national constitutions: that all humans are equal, and that this principle should be reflected in local, state, and national law, business, and societal practices. We are committed to equal opportunity across our society, where all individuals have the opportunity to live freely and pursue happiness.

- We support the U.S. Bill of Rights as written in the U.S. Constitution.
- We support fair access and just treatment for all people. No person should be discriminated against, for reasons including but not limited to:
 - actual or perceived race
 - color
 - ethnicity
 - national origin
 - religion or non-religion
 - age
 - differing ability
 - economic status
 - political beliefs
 - sex
 - gender identity
 - gender expression
 - sexual orientation
- We support permanent affordable housing for Wyoming families and urge support for federal and state programs which protect homeowners from eviction and foreclosure.
- We support a vigorous role for the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection.
- We believe in separation of church and state.
- We support religious freedoms guaranteed by the 1st Amendment and an individual's right to worship or not worship as they see fit.
- We support and defend freedom of speech for every person in this nation.
- We support the Second Amendment by balancing the "right to bear arms" with adequate regulations.
- We support the right of citizens, through their elected government, to prohibit firearms in schools, courthouses, public meetings, public parks, and bars.
- We support efforts, programs, funding, and legislation to address poverty in our state and nation.
- We support public safety nets to help protect the vulnerable among our population.
- We support efforts to close the wage gap between women and men and recognize the contributions that women make to every facet of our society.
- We support marriage equality for all.
- We support more effective laws addressing domestic violence and violence against all peoples.
- We support minimizing incarceration and promoting rehabilitation.
- We oppose private and for-profit prisons, including Adult Community Corrections facilities.
- We support a systemic change in the policing of people and the reallocation of some of the law enforcement funding to social wellness and prevention programs for police and other law enforcement officials, including: nonviolent crisis de-escalation training; education in mental health and racial justice; trauma screening and intervention; and a transparent process for addressing the improper use of force.
- We acknowledge the toxic effects of racial discrimination and recognize the persisting damage done from this nation's history of slavery, systemic racism and discrimination; as a Party, we stand in solidarity in affirming Black Lives Matter.
- We recognize, respect, and support the sovereignty of Native American tribes and land.
- We support strengthening safety protections for indigenous women and girls.
- We support enhanced training and sanctions to focus on exposing and eliminating human trafficking.



SECTION 2: GOVERNMENT PRACTICES

Government in the United States of America is the collective will of the people in a democratic society, working together to secure and improve the lives of all persons. All participants should be confident that the fundamental processes of election, appointment, legislation, administration, and enforcement are sound and faithfully adhered to.

- We support transparency and accountability in government at all levels including adherence to all public meeting and open government laws.
- We support applying open meeting laws to every level and branch of government.
- We support the enforcement of ethics and conduct standards for all elected officials, public employees, and government contractors.
- We oppose for-profit privatization of public services (i.e., Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, education, prisons, the military) including outsourcing veterans' healthcare scheduling.
- We believe all physical and digital public records of deliberations, votes, and decisions made at every level of government should be made available for public review.
- We support electronic voting in the Wyoming State Legislature or recording these votes for public review.

SECTION 3: VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Sheridan County Democrats are dedicated to ensuring that election processes and voting are fair, transparent, and accessible to all citizens. We support eliminating corporate money in politics and the overturning of Citizens United.

- We oppose legislation which restricts voting rights or makes it more difficult to vote.
- We oppose foreign interference in U.S. elections.
- We support equal and proportional representation, within legal deviation, and we oppose gerrymandering of federal and state legislative districts.
- We support efforts and legislation designed to ensure that all political donations are transparent and traceable to their origin.
- We support laws prohibiting former elected officials from becoming lobbyists within five years of leaving office.
- We support equal and fair access to media for all candidates.
- We support legislation requiring any federal or statewide candidate appearing on the Wyoming ballot to provide personal and business tax returns for the previous five years.
- We support automatic voter registration and "H.R. 138 (116th Congress): Universal Right to Vote by Mail Act of 2019."
- We support a move to open primaries for Wyoming elections.
- We support a move to a Presidential Primary election for the State of Wyoming.
- We support the restoration of voting rights for convicted felons who have completed the terms of their sentence.
- We support the transition of county offices from partisan to non-partisan for voting purposes.
- We support eliminating the Electoral College.
- We support censuses and encourage all to participate to ensure a rightful and fair count for the state of Wyoming.

SECTION 4: HEALTH CARE

Sheridan County Democrats recognize that accessible, quality health care is a basic, universal human right and not a privilege. Comprehensive health care must cover all types of treatment from birth to the end of life, including: medical, dental, vision, mental health including substance abuse, women's health, reproductive health care according to personal choice, preventive health care, pediatric health and other health care needs of Wyomingites.

- We support a nationwide single payer public health care system.
- We support the expansion of Medicaid in Wyoming.
- We support protecting and preserving Medicare.
- We support funding research in critical health areas.
- We support efforts to strengthen, fund, and foster innovation in rural health care.
- We support legalization of medical marijuana.
- We support family planning, all reproductive health care services, and the right of women to make their own choices regarding their reproductive health, including the right to choose an abortion.
- We support oversight of pharmaceutical companies and prescription drugs.
- We support increased funding and awareness for mental health, substance abuse treatment and counseling services in Wyoming.
- We support funding for the CDC to collect data on gun violence and to propose solutions to the problem.
- We support adding emergency medical services as an essential service.
- We support development of community-based services for special populations, such as our elderly or differently abled, to remain in their home and avoid out of home placement and institutional care.

SECTION 5: EDUCATION, ARTS and CULTURE

"Liberty without Learning is always in peril and Learning without Liberty is always in vain."

— John F. Kennedy

Sheridan County Democrats believe robust investment in a strong and diverse public education system is essential for individual success and responsible citizenship. We support Wyoming's constitutional mandate that higher education be "as nearly free" as possible.

- We support equal access to fully funded public education from Pre-K through college and/or trade school.
- We support the right of all students to participate in public school regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, national origin, or other personal identity.
- We support inclusion of vocational training in our public education system.
- We support inclusion of early childhood education in our public education system.
- We believe in the principles of life-long learning, and we support funding for a robust Continuing Education system across the state in community colleges, libraries, and other institutions.
- We believe that all persons deserve and benefit from having free access to the arts and humanities in their communities. We support funding for public media, the visual,

performing, and literary arts, and public libraries, and we encourage the Wyoming Humanities and Arts Councils to develop additional public/private initiatives to fund and develop local arts and humanities programs.

- We support the right of educators to negotiate collectively and participate in the certification process to ensure a high standard of quality in teaching and learning.
- We believe the University of Wyoming, Trustees, and President, should adhere to the Wyoming Constitution, follow open meeting laws, and ensure that the University remains independent of political influence.
- We support promotion of the humanities, creative arts, social and natural sciences, civic and government studies, technology, mathematics, and formal sciences at all educational levels and institutions.
- We oppose teaching "alternative science" that lacks a scientific base of fact or theory.
- We support cultivating a safe environment for students, faculty, and staff including enforcement of comprehensive anti-bullying and tolerance programs; we oppose arming any school employees.
- We support separation of church and state within the school system and we oppose requiring student participation in any religious activity that places the burden of refusal on the student.
- We support academic programs and curricula at all levels that promote and cultivate the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and we oppose educational "gag orders" intended to prohibit, alter, or curtail such programs and curricula.
- We recognize that local and state Boards of Education are charged with primary oversight of academic curricula, and we oppose external efforts, including undue parental interference, to alter or constrain a teacher's methods and lesson plans.
- We support a parent's right and responsibility to be involved in their child's education and their choice to seek other options if public education does not align with their viewpoint.
- We support the creation of a student loan debt relief program for outstanding loans.
- We support structuring future student loans to remain affordable.

SECTION 6: ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT, AND TAXES

To achieve prosperity and enhance the health of our economy, Sheridan County Democrats promote policies and practices that protect workers' safety and rights, cultivate economic diversity, and consider important tax reforms. Besides promoting equity, this would stimulate the economy by increasing money in circulation used for purchasing goods and services.

- We support the right of employees to organize and enter into collective bargaining.
- We believe that quality job creation should be promoted by public development and maintenance of supporting infrastructure (transportation, communication, and utilities), public services, and the recreational and cultural amenities that make our communities attractive places to live and do business.
- We support access to affordable, licensed childcare services.
- We support equal pay for equal work.
- We support wide-ranging efforts to promote economic diversity, opportunity, and a stable economy in Wyoming, including working towards a "just transition" for displaced workers in the fossil fuels extraction and development sector through education and re-training programs.
- We support a minimum living wage of \$15/hour for all workers, including "Tip Workers."



- We believe that retirement income and pensions should be protected in the event of corporate restructuring or bankruptcy.
- We support policies to create diverse work environments and increase opportunities for underemployed and disadvantaged populations.
- We support safe working conditions and standards for workers in Wyoming.
- We support preservation of the U.S. Social Security System.
- We support an adequately funded U.S. Postal Service.
- We support equitable and proportional taxation including corporate, investment and personal income tax in Wyoming.
- We support the legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana as an economic revenue source for the state.

SECTION 7: PUBLIC LANDS, CONSERVATION, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Wyoming is known for the beauty of our diverse and dramatic natural environments. Our access to public lands and spaces is unique, and Sheridan County Democrats recognize the importance of conserving wildlife, wildlands, and our rich legacy of connecting with the environment. We believe that Wyoming's travel, wildlife, and outdoor recreation sector is vital to our way of life and economy. We believe that providing quality jobs and protecting the environment are not mutually exclusive goals.

- We recognize that federal lands belong to all Americans and we oppose any efforts to transfer management of public lands to the state or any other entity.
- We believe that any lands acquired by the State of Wyoming should be managed for the long-term benefit of all people, wildlife, and the environment.
- We support accountability in the collection of income from state or federal lands, and public notice for sales, swaps or leasing of public lands.
- We support a common-sense option that benefits ranchers to willingly retire their grazing permits.
- We oppose aerial spraying of herbicide on public lands in order to protect and maintain biodiversity.
- We support the creation of statewide programs for the recycling of all reusable materials, industrial use of biodegradable materials, and mandatory deposits for all beverage containers; we advocate for the elimination of single-use plastics.
- We support maintaining a diverse energy portfolio and emphasizing the importance of renewable energy and energy efficiency in economic growth and sustainability.
- We urge subsidies for efficient, alternative commercial and home energy, and we support requiring that all new construction or renovation benefitting from public funding be completed with energy efficiency and active and passive solar design features where feasible.
- We support the right of all persons to participate in residential renewable energy, including community solar.
- We oppose any efforts to curtail net metering.
- We support small farming and ranching operations in Wyoming and sustainable, regenerative agricultural practices.
- We believe local food production and distribution is a tangible opportunity for economic development in our communities. We support increasing the availability of home-grown products in our communities through encouraging young farmer start-up programs and other educational and training opportunities.



- We support the concept and practice of Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL).
- We support labeling of food containing genetic modifications to preserve the public's ability to make informed choices. We oppose GMOs that transfer ownership of living organisms from the public domain to corporations.
- We support the enforcement of environmental protection laws that reduce pollution and ensure the clean air and water across Wyoming and the nation.
- We support actions which lead the United States to participate in global initiatives to combat climate change and the spread of emerging diseases.

SECTION 8: IMMIGRATION

Our country was built on immigration – by immigrants. Today, it continues to weave a rich tapestry of diversity that improves and enhances our communities. Sheridan County Democrats appreciate and welcome those who choose to come to this country and to Wyoming.

- We support long-term solutions to the conflicts and economic problems that have led to the global movement of economic refugees.
- We support immigration and advocate for an immigration system that processes prospective immigrants in a timely and just manner and provides a clear and consistent path to citizenship.
- We oppose the continuation of construction of a wall on the U.S. Southern border or anywhere else.
- We support keeping immigrant families together and strongly oppose the separation of children from parents.
- We support a path to citizenship for individuals referred to as DACA or Dreamers.
- We oppose building private prisons and Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities in Wyoming.
- We oppose any efforts to deny immigrants health care and human services, education, or access to justice.

SECTION 9: INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Sheridan County Democrats recognize that we are global citizens and have a role to play in promoting peace and prosperity across the globe. We must recognize and understand the legitimate interests of other nations, their histories, and cultures, in the spirit of seeking how to work collectively to resolve problems. We urge the same commitment to democracy, self-determination, open government, civil and human rights, and the rule of law in our conduct of foreign affairs as we espouse at home.

- We support diplomacy as the priority in international relations and we support restoring peaceful, cooperative, and collaborative relationships with other nations that promote the principles of freedom, human rights, and compassion.
- We support withdrawal of U.S. troops and all private military forces presently hired by the U.S. government from any foreign countries where they are not welcomed by their citizens.
- We support cutting our military budget and dissolving the budgetary line item known as the OCO (*Overseas Contingency Operations*) line item and redirecting those resources to human needs and job creation and training for all citizens, including our veterans.



- We support the closure of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Ft. Benning, GA, formerly known as "School of the Americas".
- We support "H.R. 1111 (117th Congress): Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2021" which would establish a cabinet level position to direct efforts to support peace and nonviolence as national policy.
- We support humanitarian aid to other nations and peoples.
- We believe in restoring the constitutional authority of Congress to declare war and authorize policing or defensive military actions against other nations and peoples.
- We support the repeal of the 2002 Iraq Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF).
- We support the permanent closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- We support a reduction of resources expended on militarism.
- We support the U.S. once again taking an active role in nuclear disarmament.

COMMENDATIONS

The Sheridan County Democratic Party would like to recognize the work, contributions, and accomplishments of the following individuals, groups, and organizations:

- The nurses, doctors, and health care workers of this nation who are fighting on the front lines of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- All emergency responders, firefighters, and police officers who serve our communities.
- We support the public workers' unions that have stood up against legislative attacks on collective bargaining rights, benefits, and pensions.
- The members of the armed forces—both current and foreign—for their willingness to serve our nation.
- Democrats holding office at every level of government who are advocating for the principles of our party, fighting for the least among us, and continuing to represent the interests of their constituents with integrity and statesmanship—especially those in Wyoming.

"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."
— Thomas Jefferson